

Media Release

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FREE SURGERIES FOR CHILDREN WITH CLEFT LIP/CLEFT PALATE IN HCMC AND SOUTHERN PROVINCES

Ho Chi Minh City, March 22nd, 2010 – From April 5th to 9th, 2010, Operation Smile Vietnam will partner with AIA (Vietnam) Life Insurance Co. Ltd. (“AIA Vietnam”), the National Hospital of Odonto-Stomatology and My Thien Hospital, HCMC, to provide free medical check-up and surgeries for children born with cleft lip and cleft palate deformities coming from Ho Chi Minh City and Southern provinces. It is estimated that 100 patients will receive treatment during this mission. The patients will also receive a portion of transportation and food expenses incurred during their stay at the hospital.

The five-day surgery mission will be scheduled as follows:

April 5th, 2010: Medical check-up and screening
National Hospital of Odonto-Stomatology
201A Nguyen Chi Thanh St, Dist 5, HCMC

April 6th – 9th : Surgeries
My Thien Hospital, 275/4/2 Ly Thuong Kiet St, Dist 11, HCMC

This is the first time AIA Vietnam joins Operation Smile for the mission . On top of its financial support, AIA Vietnam also sends 30 volunteers who are its employees and agents to assist with non-medical works such as logistic operations, patients’ comfort and guidance and follow-up on children, care for the patients before and after surgery.

Families whose children were born with cleft lip and facial deformities can register for the program with Operation Smile Vietnam at (04) 3936 5426. Alternatively, they can bring their children to the fore-mentioned hospital during the morning of April 5th, from 8:00 am, for a medical check-up, consultation and surgery.

For the sake of patients’ health and safety, surgeries are only executed for cleft lip patients above 6 months old weighing at least 8kg, and cleft palate children above 18 months old weighing 10 kg and over. Malnourished children or children with asthma, high fever, heart attack, diabetes or other internal diseases will be placed on a waiting list in order to ensure they are in good health before undergoing the surgery.

The year 2009 marked twenty years of operation of Operation Smile Vietnam. Since its establishment in 1989, Operation Smile Vietnam has provided free surgeries to over 14,000 children born with cleft lips and cleft palates. Each surgery takes about 45 – 60 minutes, with a cost of approximately \$150 USD for medicines and hospital fees. In the coming years, Operation Smile Vietnam is aiming to provide free surgeries for 2,500 – 3,000 children each

year to minimize the number of patients suffering from facial deformities. Every year, Vietnam has an estimated 3,000 new patients born with cleft lip and/or palate deformities (based on 1:500 birth rate).

For more information about Operation Smile Vietnam, please visit: www.operationsmile.org.vn or contact Operation Smile Vietnam offices at (08) 3920 7356 (HCMC) or (04) 3936 5426 (Hanoi) during office hours, or hotline: **0904 88 5555**.

About AIA Vietnam

AIA Vietnam is a 100% foreign-owned life insurer and a member of the AIA Group. AIA Vietnam officially started operations in Vietnam in February, 2000, offering a wide range of life insurance products and services for savings, education and protection purposes, which are designed to meet customer needs. With its headquarters located in Ho Chi Minh City, AIA Vietnam constantly expands its business through a network of branches, representative offices and general agent offices in 25 provinces and cities across the country.

With a long-term commitment in Vietnam, AIA Vietnam has been actively devoted to organizing and participating in charity and social activities to support the community throughout the country.

